

Perioperative RN Engagement and Post-op Patient Visits

BACKGROUND

- Nursing engagement has been well documented in the literature to play a huge role in nursing satisfaction, patient satisfaction, and commitment of nurses to the nursing profession, as well as to their place of employment. In order for nurses to feel fulfilled, they need to feel satisfaction with their work.
- The OR nurse is in a unique position of needing to make an interpersonal connection instantaneously, which in turn helps the patient feel safe and trusted in the care of the surgical team. However, once the patient has their procedure, the OR nurse doesn't usually have any other contact with the patient.
- Mary-Ann Stone (1983) discusses the benefit of post-operative visits, to strengthen the relationship between the nurse and the patient, and for the nurse to feel a sense of satisfaction in the work they do, a sense of recognition, commitment, and professional fulfillment.
- Exploring the post-operative patient visit and its significance on nursing engagement may reveal an increase in the emotional commitment nurses have to their organization and the work they do, and can drive growth, recognition, appreciation, and trust in their job and place of employment.
- The review of the literature is lacking in investigating whether post-operative visits to patients would increase the level of perioperative nurse engagement., which has given a great opportunity to explore this study.



STUDY QUESTION

In the perioperative environment will operating room nurses experience greater engagement if they participate in post-operative patient visits for patients who are admitted to the hospital post-procedure?

HYPOTHESIS

Operating room nurses will experience greater engagement if they participate in post-operative patient visits for patients who are admitted to the hospital post-procedure.

DESIGN

- This research is a descriptive study using a quantitative approach.
- This approach encompasses the method and procedures that will be employed to obtain information about nurse engagement through the use of a survey tool in perioperative nurses pre-intervention of patient post-operative visits, after 2 weeks of performing post-operative visits, and within 3 months after performing post-operative visits.
- The sampling technique to be used in this study is a nonprobability sample with a convenience sampling approach, in this case, perioperative nurses at the facility of study who would like to engage in research.
- Nurses working in the main OR at Valley Hospital will be asked if they would like to voluntarily participate in this study at a staff meeting/circle-up. Inclusion criteria is nurses employed in the OR at Valley Hospital for one year. Exclusion criteria includes those nurses who work in the OR at Valley Hospital for less than one year. Optimally, twenty participants will be included this study.
- Written consent with explanation of study, its purpose, importance, and implications towards nurse engagement, as well as assurance of strict confidentiality and anonymity in survey responses. Participant may withdraw at any time. There is no compensation for participating, and no foreseeable risks involved in participation.
- The independent variable in this research is the post-operative visit The dependent variable is nurse engagement – how is it affected?
- IRB approval has been obtained.
- Approval from Research Council at Valley Hospital has been obtained.



METHODOLOGY

- Data collection will be by questionnaire survey. The survey consists of 17 questions from the Work and Well-being Survey (UWES) to assess work engagement, and is in the form of a 7-point Likert scale. There are four demographic-related questions to be collected, including the participant's age group, gender, educational background, and years as a perioperative nurse. The survey should take the participant between five and ten minutes to complete.

Part II: Demographic information

- What is your sex? M / F
- What is your age?
20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+
- How many years have you been an OR nurse?
1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 25+
- What is your highest level of education? (Please circle one)
Diploma Associates in Nursing Bachelors in Nursing Bachelors in other
Masters in Nursing Masters in other

- The UWES is a valid, reliable tool. Cronbach's alpha scale is greater than or equal to .82. All scales are highly internally consistent (Schaufeli & Bakker, 2004). Sample size and time frame to take questionnaire surveys determined by statistician.
- After completing the survey, each participant will be asked to do post-operative visits on admitted patients whose care they were involved in at least one-day post-surgery when the patient is awake and able to interact with the patient. The participant will see the patient, introduce themselves as part of the OR care team, and let the patient know they are there to see how they are recovering. The visit is to connect with the patient on a personal basis to see how they are feeling. A brief interaction of between five and ten minutes will take place.
- Participants will document how many patients they were able to visit post-operatively in a 2 week period, with optimally at least 5 visits performed per participant. The UWES survey questionnaire will be given after 2 weeks.
- Participants will be asked to continue doing post-op visits, and document how many were done during the next 3 months. After 3 months, they will be given the UWES survey questionnaire, along with 2 open-ended questions about their experience:
 - ~What is your overall feeling about performing post-op visits?
 - ~Is performing a post-op visit something you feel you would incorporate into your practice when time allows for it?
- Descriptive and inferential statistics will be used for data analysis in the form of frequency distribution, with percentages to be placed in pie charts, tables, and/or bar charts. SPSS analytics software will be used for accuracy. T-tests will be used to test the statistical significance between the mean and post scores. Repeated measures statistics will be used to compare the scores at points with respect to time.

Patient Log

Please document how many patients you were able to see in the first 2 weeks after doing the pre-survey by checking off a box each time you do a post-op visit:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Please document how many patients you were able to see in the 3 months following taking the 2nd survey:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

SIGNIFICANCE

This study is significant to nursing and engagement in the profession and the organization. If it can be determined that performing post-operative visits increases nursing engagement in the perioperative area, better outcomes may occur, and perioperative nurses may feel more fulfilled, have a more positive and passionate feeling about their profession, and engage more in shared governance decisions, both on the unit level and in the organization. This may be important to implement in healthcare facilities, especially in these trying times when so many nurses are leaving their current employment and re-evaluating their personal and professional lives. An evidence-based practice change could result in those facilities performing surgery where patients stay overnight post-procedure to all for the post-operative visit to occur.

REFERENCES

Bakker, A. B. (2019). Work engagement. Retrieved January 25, 2019, from www.arnoldbakker.com/workengagement

Bargagliotti, L. A. (2011, November 1). Work engagement in nursing: a concept analysis. *JAN*.

Bjorn, C., Lindberg, M., & Rissen, D. (2015). Significant factors for work attractiveness and how these differ from the current work situation among operating department nurses. *Journal of clinical Nursing*, 109-116.

Brunges, M., & Foley-Brinza, C. (2014, December). Projects for increasing job satisfaction and creating a healthy work environment. *AORN Journal*, 100, 670-681.

Dempsey, C., & Reilly, B. A. (2016, January 31). Nurse Engagement: What are the contributing factors for success? *The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, 21, 1-11.

Falk-Brynhildsen, K., & Nilsson, U. (2009). Cardiac surgery patients' evaluation of the quality of theatre nurse postoperative follow-up visit. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 105-111.

Saver, C. (2015). Successful recruitment and retention of engaged employees -- Part 1. *OR Manager*.

Schaufeli, W., & Bakker, A. (2004). UWES. Retrieved September, 2018, from https://www.wilmarschaufeli.nl/publications/.../Test_manual_UWES_English.pdf

Silva, R., Martins, M., & Jardim, H. (2016, June). Nursing postoperative visit as a quality indicator for surgical patient care. *The Association for Perioperative Practice*, 26, 145-147.

Spruce, L. (2015, July). Back to Basics: Patient and Family Engagement. *AORN Journal*, 102, 33-39.

Stone, M. (1983, February). Pre-operative visiting - part of the O.R. nurse's role? *The Australian Nurses Journal*, 12, 46-48.

NOTES and CONTACT INFORMATION

This research proposal was originally submitted and approved just prior to the first COVID-19 outbreak. This has unfortunately put the data collection and analysis on hold.

It is the hope that this year this research projected will be able to be completed.

For any questions, please contact
Bonnie Weinberg, MSN, RN, CNOR at
bweinbe@valleyhealth.com.

